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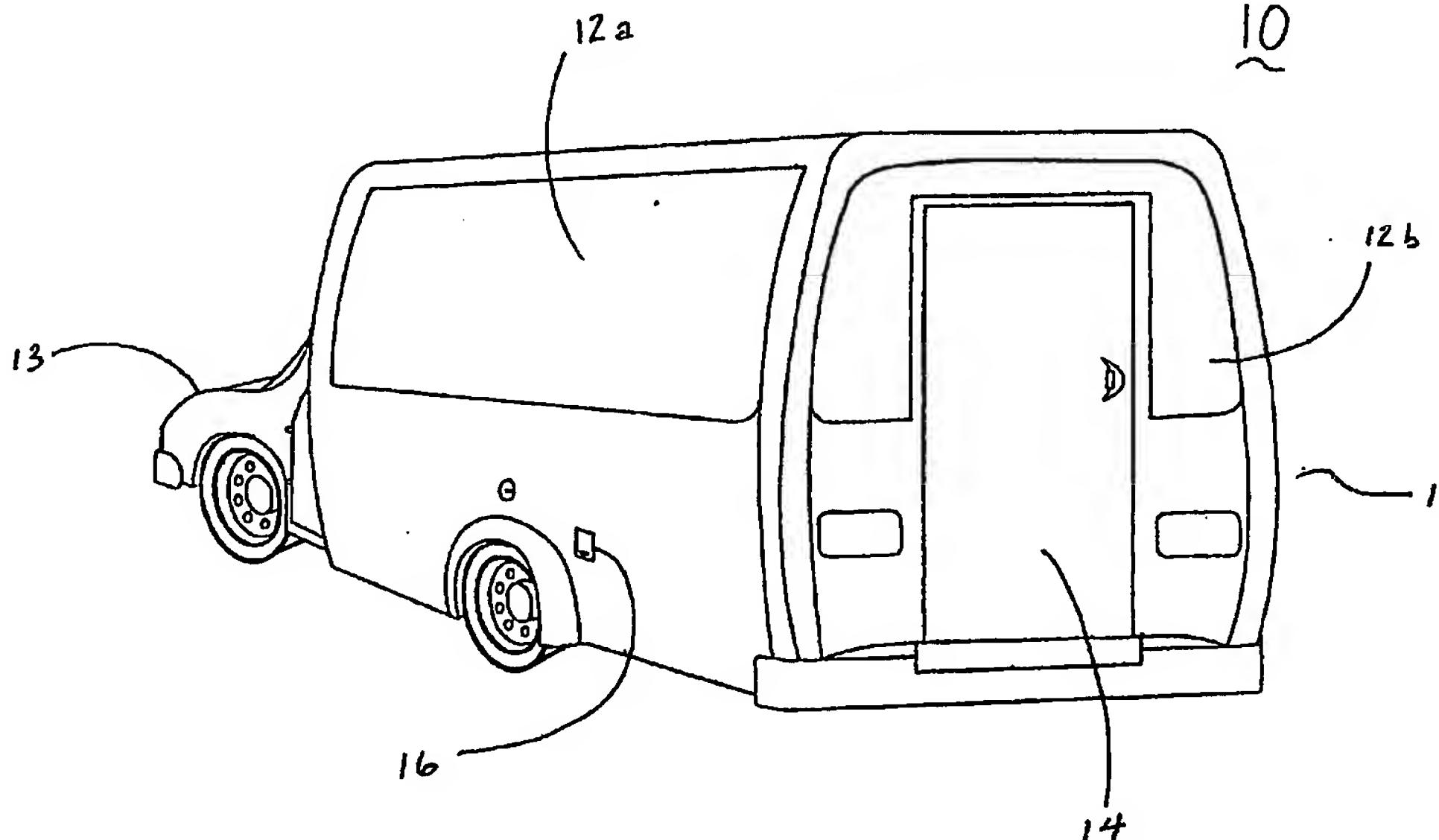
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(54) Title: MOBILE RADIATION TREATMENT VEHICLE AND METHOD



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(57) Abstract: A mobile radiation treatment vehicle is disclosed including, a patient treatment compartment having at least one radiation shield member, the at least one radiation shield member positioned to prevent at least a portion of radiation emitted from a treatment device from passing through an interior of the patient treatment compartment to an outside area, the treatment device capable of emitting radiation used in connection with radiation therapy and positioned in the patient treatment compartment, and a shielded partition member positioned in the patient treatment compartment and proximate to the treatment device, the shielded partition member positioned to reduce or prevent exposure to a user from radiation emitted from the treatment device during patient treatment.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
NON-PROVISIONAL PATENT APPLICATION

Title: MOBILE RADIATION TREATMENT VEHICLE  
AND METHOD

Inventor: Mark Pomper, Miami Beach, Florida

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/449,676, filed on February 24, 2003, entitled NOVEL SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR  
5 PROVIDING RADIATION THERAPY.

TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to radiation therapy. More specifically, the present invention relates to a mobile radiation treatment vehicle and  
10 method for providing radiation therapy to a patient.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Radiation therapy has been in use for the treatment of cancer and other diseases for approximately 100 years. As early as 1897, it was concluded that x-rays could be  
15 used for therapeutic as well as diagnostic purposes, and in 1912, Marie Curie published the "Theory of Radioactivity." The investigation of x-ray radiation for patient therapy moved into the clinical routine in the

early 1920s.

Since the first uses of radiation to treat cancer, important changes have been made in the field and numerous developments have been accomplished, including:

5 the generation of higher energy radiation beams for more effective cancer treatment; the development of versatile linear accelerator and patient table designs to enable radiation to be delivered to the cancer from a variety of angles and directions; the implementation of "multi-leaf" 10 collimators (lead shutters) and other beam shaping devices for precision control and shaping of the radiation beam; the use of CT, PET, MR and other image data sets to create three-dimensional planning models to accurately guide treatment; and the implementation of 15 networked computers to track radiation treatment sessions and patient dose calculations (both planned and accumulated).

The ultimate goal of all of the above changes, developments and improvements is the effective 20 destruction of cancer tissue while delivering a minimal dose of radiation to adjacent healthy tissues. Another goal is to make the treatment easier and shorter for the patient to sustain and the physicians and other

healthcare professionals to perform.

However, with all the advances in radiation treatment, there are urgent needs that have not been met.

There are many patients in need of radiation therapy  
5 that are unable to travel to treatment centers. Mobile X-ray units have been in use for years and provided physicians an important diagnostic tool for evaluating patients unable to travel to receive an x-ray. Radiation therapy is much more prohibitive due to the prolonged  
10 periods in which the radiation source is active. The need for a safe, effective mobile radiation therapy system has been needed and not met. The present invention fulfills the need for mobile radiation therapy.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

15 The present invention eliminates the above-mentioned needs by providing a mobile radiation treatment vehicle and a method for providing radiation treatment.

In accordance with the present invention, there is provided a mobile radiation treatment vehicle including,  
20 a patient treatment compartment, the patient treatment compartment for housing a treatment device capable of emitting radiation used in connection with radiation

therapy, and a shielded partition member positioned in the patient treatment compartment and proximate to the treatment device, the shielded partition member positioned to reduce or prevent exposure to a user from 5 radiation emitted from said treatment device during patient treatment.

The present invention is further directed to a method for providing radiation therapy including, preparing a mobile radiation treatment vehicle having: a 10 patient treatment compartment having at least one radiation shield member, at least one radiation shield member positioned to prevent at least a portion of radiation emitted from a treatment device from passing through an interior of the patient treatment compartment 15 to an outside area; the treatment device capable of emitting radiation used in connection with radiation therapy and positioned in the patient treatment compartment; and a shielded partition member positioned in the patient treatment compartment and proximate to the 20 treatment device, the shielded partition member positioned to reduce or prevent exposure to a user from radiation emitted from the treatment device during patient treatment, providing access to an interior area

of the patient treatment compartment to a patient,  
securing the treatment device in a position relative to  
the patient, providing radiation therapy to the patient,  
and shielding the user from at least a portion of the  
5 radiation emitted from the treatment device.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGURE 1 is an isometric view of the preferred  
10 embodiment of the present invention.

FIGURE 2 is a top view of the interior of the patient  
treatment compartment of the present invention shown in  
FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 3 is a front view of components illustrated in  
15 FIGURE 2.

FIGURE 4 is a flow-chart diagram of the system of the  
present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a vehicle and  
20 method for providing mobile radiation therapy. Radiation  
therapy is typically used to treat cancer. The term,  
"cancer" is meant to describe any physiological condition  
in which cells are not being regulated by normal

mechanisms. Additional conditions for therapy may include, but would not be limited to: sarcomas, lymphomas, keloids, benign recalcitrant dermatidies, warts, calluses, arthritis, ulcers, pterygium, psoriasis 5 and the like. The present invention is intended and suitable for treatment of any medical condition in which radiation therapy would be medically prescribed and beneficial. The units conventionally utilized in radiation therapy are typically housed in hospitals or 10 radiation therapy centers. The present invention provides for a radiation therapy unit that has been adapted for transport and treatment in a mobile therapy unit.

The source of the radiation therapy unit may be any 15 unit such that a therapeutic amount of radiation is delivered to a patient in a safe and medically acceptable manner. Those skilled in the art are well versed in the time parameters for therapy as well as the conventionally utilized dosages of radiation. Radiation therapy units 20 may be used to deliver up to 35mV of radiation. For superficial treatments, levels up to 250kV may be used. The present invention is envisioned to provide a system for providing treatment in any therapeutic range of

radiation therapy.

In one embodiment, a vehicle (described in detail below with reference to Fig.1) is lined with lead sufficient to prevent exposure to radiation outside the 5 treatment area. The lead may be 1/32 to 12 inches in thickness. In a preferred embodiment, the lead shielding is 1/16 inch thick. The lining is installed within the mobile transport unit in a manner as is conventionally known in order to prevent any radiation from escaping the 10 treatment area within the vehicle. The interior of the vehicle is also suitably equipped with a lead lined area for the operator of the therapy machine to safely administer the radiation therapy, as discussed below. The operation area is further constructed with a 15 conventionally used radiation-inhibiting window for the operator to observe the patient during therapy.

Referring now to Fig. 1, the preferred embodiment of the present invention is illustrated as mobile radiation treatment vehicle 10. Mobile radiation treatment vehicle 20 10 includes a patient treatment compartment 11, which is adjacent to vehicle cabin 13. Vehicle cabin 13 houses the driving controls for mobile radiation treatment vehicle 10.

Patient treatment compartment 11 has an exterior that preferably incorporates at least one radiation shield member 12a, and more preferably additional radiation shield members such as radiation shield member 5 12b. Radiation shield members 12a and 12b can be formed from any one of a number of materials known in the art that at least partially prevent the passage of radiation, including but not limited to lead, aluminum, alloys of lead, polymers (such as acrylic), concrete, and 10 fiberglass. The thickness of radiation shield members 12a and 12b is dependent upon the material used to form radiation shield members 12a and 12b. Alternatively, in another embodiment of the present invention, radiation shield members 12a and 12b are not required if 15 precautions are undertaken to prevent the public from approaching too close to mobile radiation treatment.

Patient treatment compartment 11 further includes a power adapter 16. Power adapter 16 can be engaged to provide direct line electrical power to the system of the 20 present invention without the use of the resources of mobile radiation treatment vehicle 10. Patient treatment compartment 11 additionally incorporates an access door 14 to permit access to and egress out of the interior of

patient treatment compartment 11. Access door 14 can further include radiation shielding.

Referring now to Fig. 2, the interior of patient treatment compartment 11 is illustrated including 5 shielded partition member 18 and treatment device 20. Treatment device 20 is preferably a radiation treatment device capable of emitting radiation used in connection with radiation therapy. In one embodiment, treatment device 20 of the present invention provides dosage of up 10 to about 1000 centigray (CGy) (1 centigray = 1 Rad) or up to about 1000 Roentgen (R). In order to protect the practitioner 34 treating the patient from repeated exposure to the radiation emitted from treatment device 20, a shielded partition member 18 is secured within 15 patient treatment compartment 11 proximate to treatment device 20.

Shielded partition member 18 is preferably constructed from materials well known in the art to reduce or prevent exposure to radiation. Such materials 20 include, but are not limited to, lead, aluminum, alloys of lead, polymers (such as acrylic), concrete, and fiberglass. Shielded partition member 18 can also be mounted so as to be movably positionable within patient

treatment compartment 11. Shielded partition member 18 preferably extends from floor 36 to ceiling (not shown) of patient treatment compartment 11 so as to prevent as much radiation as possible from interacting with body of 5 practitioner 34. However, shielded partition member 18 need not extend to the ceiling, but rather to a height sufficient to protect the user.

Treatment device 20 is movably mounted to a stand 22, such as a tube stand, to position treatment device 20 10 in an array of vertical positions relative to the patient. Additional mount 24 may be utilized to position treatment device 20 in a variety of horizontal positions relative to the patient. Stand 22 has a bottom end that is preferably flat on floor 36. Floor 36 is preferably a 15 rubberized or other reduced slip material so as to provide adequate traction. Stand 22 can be frictionally fit between floor 36 and the ceiling (not shown) of patient treatment compartment 11, or secured in any manner well known in the art to substantially prevent or 20 severely restrict movement of treatment device 20. The immobilization is important to preserve the integrity of the calibration and provide precise delivery of radiation from treatment device 20 when the vehicle is stopped and

treatment is provided to a patient.

- Treatment device 20 may be operationally engaged to a controller 28 via cables 26. Controller 28 can be a controller appropriate to control some or all of the 5 functions of treatment device 20. Controller 28 is operatively engaged to a control console 32 via cables 30. Control console 32 operates to regulate the functions associated with treatment device 20, including, but not limited to, power flow and duration of treatment.
- 10 Isolation switch 34, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, is used to prevent the generators (not shown) from supplying power directly to the system. Control console 32 can be positioned on the same side as shielded partition 18 as user 34, for ease of operation.
- 15 In the current medical practice, it is desirable to minimize the fluctuation of both electric current, measured in ampere (amp) and electromotive force, measured in volts (V). Furthermore, current medical practice provides for a tolerance in the fluctuation of 20 voltage and amperage during therapy. Current medical practice dictates a desired fluctuation of (+/-) 5%. This 5% fluctuation represents a maximum medically, optimally acceptable fluctuation.

In order to address this fluctuation, one embodiment provides for the radiation therapy machine of the present invention to be powered by a battery. In a preferred embodiment, the battery is a gel static battery.

5       Typical generators produce an unsteady flow of electrical current, thus, as illustrated in Fig. 4, control console 32 is operatively engaged to a line conditioner and a battery isolation system 100. The arrangement of a battery 120 with an inverter 130 is to  
10 maintain an optimally stable uninterruptible supply of power to treatment device 20. Battery isolation system 100 of the present invention inverts power supplied from generators 110 to charge batteries 120 of the system. Batteries 120 then pass electrical current through an  
15 inverter 130, which then converts the electrical current to alternating current (AC) for use by treatment device 20.

Yet another embodiment may include electrical regulatory devices. These devices will be placed along  
20 the electrical circuit in a manner such that they can regulate voltage and amperage of the electric current before the current enters the radiation therapy machine.

Optionally, the regulatory device may be one or more

devices well known in the art. One such device would be a voltmeter equipped with a regulator. The regulator, as is commonly known, will control the volts exiting the voltmeter to the radiation therapy machine.

5 Additionally, such an embodiment may include an amp meter, similarly equipped with a regulator. The regulator will control the amperage exiting the regulator and supplying current to the radiation therapy machine.

The regulation of amperage and voltage becomes quite  
10 important because typical therapy may last up to 10 minutes per session. Preferably, each session is from 10 seconds to 5 minutes. In some cases, therapy will last from 30 seconds to 2 minutes. Furthermore, treatment typically is administered in repeated doses.

15 As better generators become available, such generators are contemplated to supply power directly to the system of the present invention without undue power fluctuation.

Although only a few exemplary embodiments of the  
20 present invention have been described in detail above, those skilled in the art will readily appreciate that numerous modifications are to the exemplary embodiments are possible without materially departing from the novel

teachings and advantages of this invention. Accordingly, all such modifications are intended to be included within the scope of this invention as defined in the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A mobile radiation treatment vehicle comprising:
  - 5 a patient treatment compartment, said patient treatment compartment for housing a treatment device capable of emitting radiation used in connection with radiation therapy; and
    - a shielded partition member positioned in said
  - 10 patient treatment compartment and proximate to said treatment device, said shielded partition member positioned to reduce or prevent exposure to a user from radiation emitted from said treatment device during patient treatment.

2. A mobile radiation treatment vehicle comprising:

a patient treatment compartment having at least one  
radiation shield member, said at least one radiation  
5 shield member positioned to prevent at least a portion of  
radiation emitted from a treatment device from passing  
through an interior of said patient treatment compartment  
to an outside area;

said treatment device capable of emitting radiation  
10 used in connection with radiation therapy and positioned  
in said patient treatment compartment; and

a shielded partition member positioned in said  
patient treatment compartment and proximate to said  
treatment device, said shielded partition member  
15 positioned to reduce or prevent exposure to a user from  
radiation emitted from said treatment device during  
patient treatment.

3. The mobile radiation treatment vehicle according to  
20 claim 2 wherein said at least one radiation shield member  
has shielding that is selected from the group consisting  
of lead, aluminum, alloys of lead, polymers, concrete,  
and fiberglass.

4. The mobile radiation treatment vehicle according to  
claim 2 wherein said shielded partition member has  
shielding that is selected from the group consisting of  
5 lead, aluminum, alloys of lead, polymers, concrete, and  
fiberglass.
  
5. The mobile radiation treatment vehicle according to  
claim 4 wherein said shielded partition member extends a  
10 length from a floor of said vehicle sufficient to shield  
a user.

6. A method for providing radiation therapy comprising:

(a) preparing a mobile radiation treatment vehicle

having

(i) a patient treatment compartment having at

5 least one radiation shield member, at least one

radiation shield member positioned to prevent at

least a portion of radiation emitted from a

treatment device from passing through an interior of

said patient treatment compartment to an outside

10 area;

(ii) said treatment device capable of emitting

radiation used in connection with radiation therapy

and positioned in said patient treatment

compartment; and

15 (iii) a shielded partition member

positioned in said patient treatment compartment and

proximate to said treatment device, said shielded

partition member positioned to reduce or prevent

exposure to a user from radiation emitted from said

20 treatment device during patient treatment;

(b) providing access to an interior area of said patient treatment compartment to a patient;

(c) securing said treatment device in a position

relative to said patient;

(d) providing radiation therapy to said patient;

and

(e) shielding said user from at least a portion of

5 said radiation emitted from said treatment device.

7. The method according to claim 6 wherein said at least one radiation shield member has shielding that is selected from the group consisting of lead, aluminum, 10 alloys of lead, polymers, concrete, and fiberglass.

8. The method according to claim 6 wherein said shielded partition member has shielding that is selected from the group consisting of lead, aluminum, alloys of 15 lead, polymers, concrete, and fiberglass.

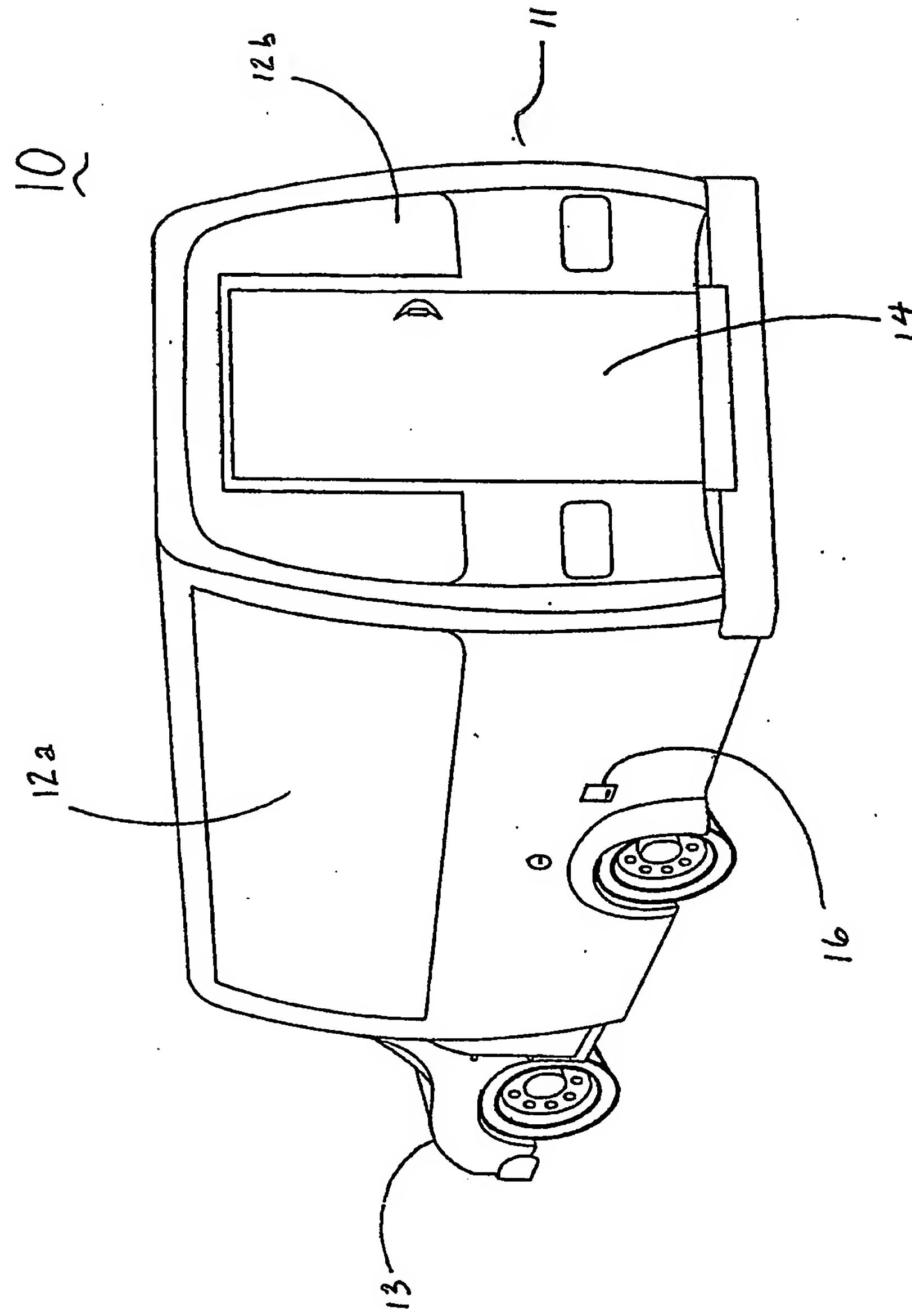
9. The method according to claim 8 wherein said shielded partition member extends a length from a floor of said vehicle sufficient to shield a user.

20

10. The method according to claim 6 wherein said access is by a door.

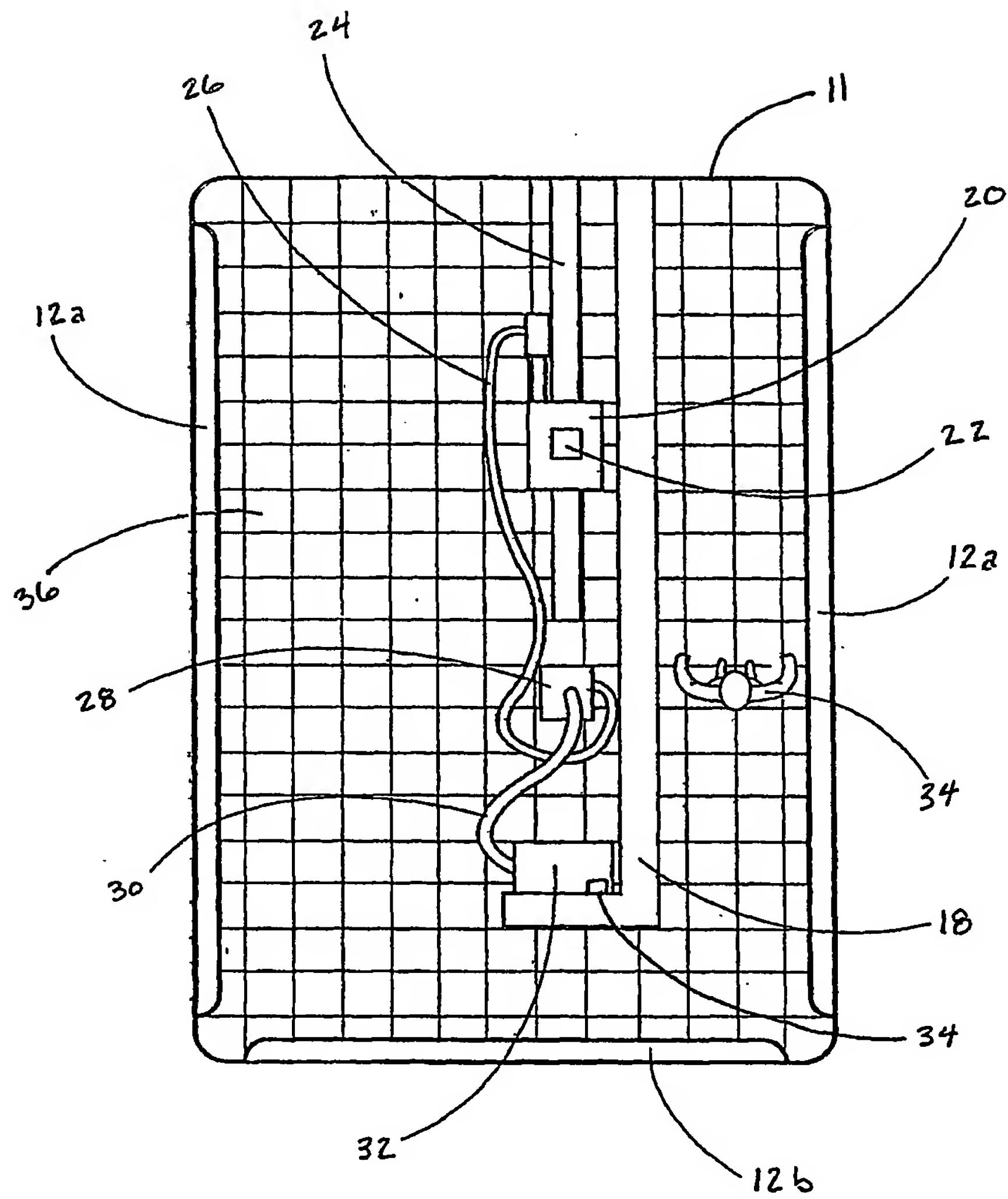
11. The method according to claim 10 wherein said door  
is shielded to limit the passage of radiation.

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*FIG. 1*

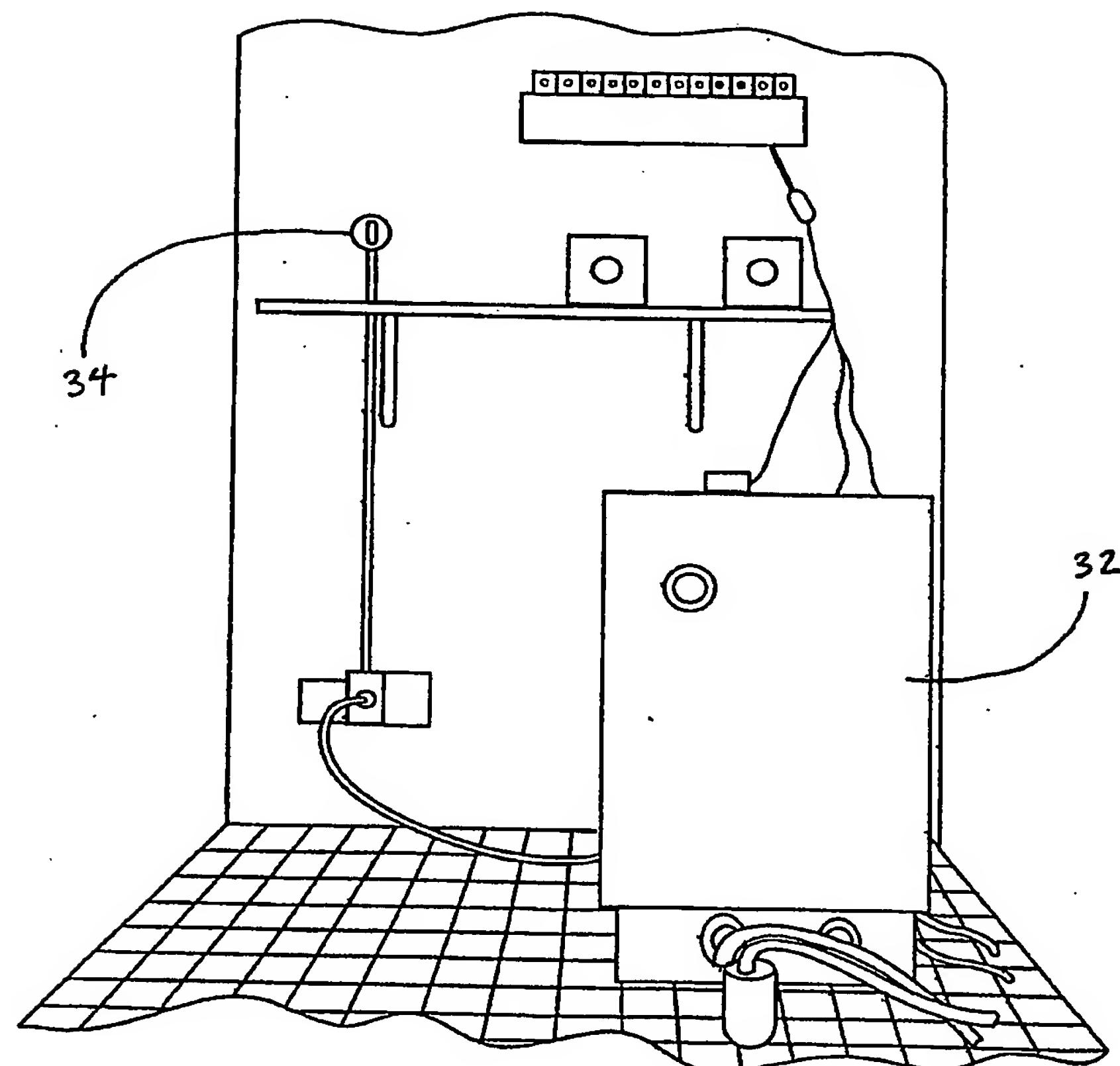
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FIG. 2



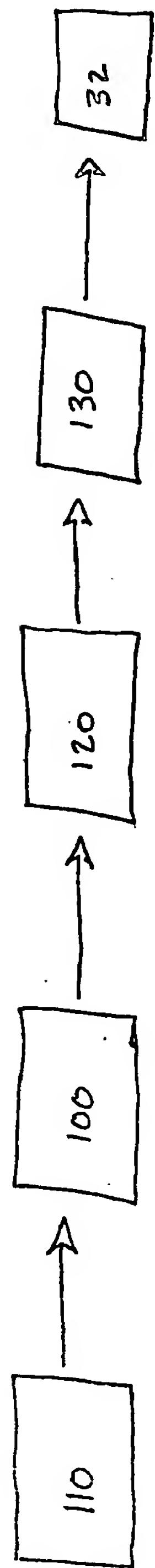
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FIG. 3



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FIG.4



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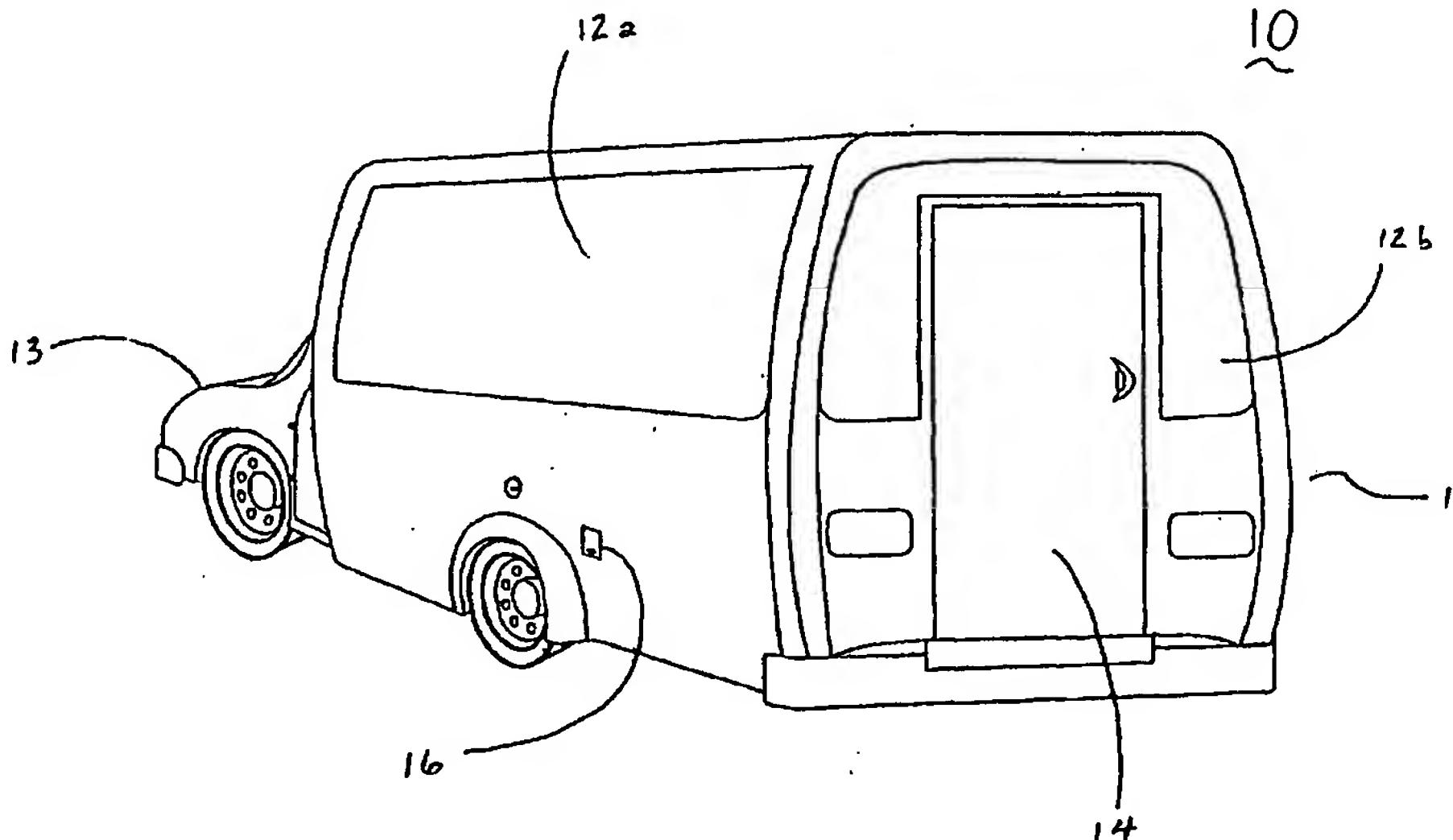
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(72) Inventor: **POMPER, Mark, E.** [US/US]; 505 W. 47th Street, Miami, FL 33140 (US).
- (74) Agents: **SCHWARTZ, Robert, M.** et al.; Ruden, McClosky, Smith, Schuster & Russell P.A., 200 East Brwoard Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301 (US).
- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,
- GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
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(54) Title: MOBILE RADIATION TREATMENT VEHICLE AND METHOD



**WO 2004/075975 A3**

(57) Abstract: A mobile radiation treatment vehicle (10) is disclosed including, a patient treatment compartment (11) having at least one radiation shield member (12b), the at least one radiation shield member positioned to prevent at least a portion of radiation emitted from a treatment device from passing through an interior of the patient treatment compartment (11) to an outside area. The treatment device is capable of emitting radiation used in connection with radiation therapy and is positioned in the patient treatment compartment (11). A shielded partition member is positioned in the patient treatment compartment (11) and is proximate to the treatment device. The shielded partition member positioned to reduce or prevent exposure to a user from radiation emitted from the treatment device during patient treatment.



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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b>		
IPC(7) : B62D 39/00; B60P 3/05 US CL : 250/515.1, 517.1; 296/1R, 19, 24.1		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 250/515.1, 517.1; 296/1R, 19, 24.1		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched NONE		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) EAST		
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4,449,746 (Clark) 22 May 1984 (22.05.1984), see abstract, figures 1-4, col. 1 lines 1-40, col. 2 lines 5-10, 39-65, col. 3 lines 10-30, col. 4 lines 45-68, col. 5 lines 5-35, and col. 6 lines 4-20.	1-11
Y	US 6,179,358 (HIRAYAMA et al) 30 January 2001 (30.01.2001), see abstract, figures 2-3,5,8-10, col. 1 lines 5-10, col. 2 lines 1-6, 40-55, col. 4 lines 20-50, col. 5 lines 19-25, col. 6 lines 19-30, col. 8 lines 50-60, and col. 9 lines 50-65	1-11
X — Y	US 5,727,353 (GETZ et al) 17 March 1998 (17.03.1998), abstract, figures 1-5, col. 1 lines 10-56, col. 2 lines 1-10, 25-46, col. 3 lines 1-45, col. 4 lines 1-10	1-2,6,10-11 ———— 3-5,7-9

<input type="checkbox"/>	Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	<input type="checkbox"/>	See patent family annex.
*	Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E"	earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
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"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US  Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer  John R. Lee Telephone No. (703)-308-0956  <b>DEBORAH A. THOMAS</b> <b>PARALEGAL SPECIALIST</b> <b>GROUP 1300</b> <i>DAT</i>